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Fellow New Yorkers:

As part of a broader cost-saving measure, New York State is in the process of eliminating the January Regents examinations for high school students starting next year. As principals whose at-risk students will be adversely affected by the State's decision, we urge the re-instatement of this test. There is no question that it is critical for state officials to find cost-savings in the education budget. Yet, this cutback—which will save a meager \$1.4 million out of \$19.4 billion in school aid—will not only have profoundly harmful short- and long-term consequences for the children in our schools but will, in fact, cost the State of New York money in terms of a higher drop-out rate.

The Regents are not perfect exams, and the Board of Regents has publicly committed to improve them to align with the recently adopted Common Core standards. However, at present, the January administration of Regents exams serves as an important academic scaffold for tens of thousands of students. Students who are struggling rely on the January tests to enhance their level of preparedness and increase their chances of passing future exams. In addition, the timing of the January Regents exam offers students the significant advantage of taking the exam during the middle of the academic year, when their skills and motivation are sharpest. The January test date also helps relieve students' stress of preparing for multiple tests during the June and August testing periods.

The failure to administer Regents in January will have a real and devastating impact on our students, particularly those already at risk of academic failure. Data from just 62 schools working with New Visions for Public Schools shows that in this past January's exam period, students took over 27,000 exams. Extrapolated citywide, the number of Regents taken during the January cycle is likely in the tens of thousands.

Any cost-savings are illusory or short-sighted at best. More students will likely fail the June and August exams if the January exams are taken away. A rise in the rate of students who fail the Regents will have disastrous consequences not only for our students, but also for the state economy. Students who fail will face two options: stay in school additional semesters to accumulate the Regents they need to graduate (adding to school costs), or simply drop out. We know too well the negative costs associated with a higher drop-out rate. At a time when New

York City teachers and principals are making strides in reducing the drop-out rate, particularly for low-income black and Latino students, it is inconceivable that the New York State legislature and Governor Cuomo would allow a policy that would reverse these hard-won gains.

We hereby urge the State to fund the administration of the January 2012 Regents examination and continue to develop better assessments of what our students need to know for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Sincerely,

Beshir Abdellatif, Khalil Gibran International Academy  
Walter G. Acham, Jamaica High School  
Osei Owusu Afriyie, Frederick Douglass Academy II Secondary School  
James Anderson, FDNY High School for Fire and Life Safety  
Bernardo Ascona, Washington Irving High School  
Michael Barakat, Bronx High School for Law and Community Service  
John Barnes, Bronx Early College Academy  
Stella M. Boghosian, Educator, Hillcrest High School  
Alisa Berger, NYC iSchool  
Joseph J. Birgeles, Robert H. Goddard High School for Communication Arts & Technology  
Carlos Borrero, High School for Community Leadership  
Rod Bowen, The DreamYard Preparatory School  
Althea Bradshaw-Tyson, The Young Women's Leadership School  
Mary Brouder, Automotive High School  
Bridgit Claire Bye, Pan American High School at Monroe  
Katherin Callaghan, Bronx Leadership Academy II High School  
Migdalia Carrillo, International School for Liberal Arts  
Ty Cesene, Bronx Arena High School  
Alona Cohen, Brooklyn Frontiers HS  
Leba Collins-Augone, Foreign Language Academy of Global Studies H.S.  
Scott Conti, New Design High School  
Helen M. Corchado (retired)  
Rashid Davis, Pathways in Technology Early College High School  
Frances De Sanctis, Richmond Hill High School  
Denise DiCarlo, Gramercy Arts High School  
Jaime Anne Dubei, Queens Collegiate  
Stephen Duch, Hillcrest High School  
Mark Dunetz, Academy for Careers in Television and Film  
Deborah Effinger, Bronx Theatre High School  
Anne Fennelly, Jill Chaifetz Transfer High School  
Rhoekisha Ford, Academy for Social Action  
Cynthia Fowlkes, Academy of Innovative Technology  
Lisa Fuentes, Columbus High School  
Mara Ganeles, New Day Academy  
Tim Gannon, Port Richmond High School  
Louis Garcia, South Brooklyn Community High School

Kenneth Gaskins Jr., Bronx Leadership Academy High School  
Lisa Gioe, Millennium Brooklyn High School  
Joshua Good, Brooklyn Theatre Arts High School  
Ronald Gorsky, Concord High School  
Avionne Gumbs, Young Women's Leadership School - Queens  
Robert Hall, Arts and Media Prep  
Sheila Hanley, International Arts Business School  
Estelle Hans, Collegiate Institute for Math and Science  
Roberto Hernandez, Grace Dodge Career and Technical High School  
Fernando Herrera, Assistant Principal, Grover Cleveland High School  
Maria Herrera, Renaissance High School for Musical Theatre and Technology  
Brooke Jackson, NYC Lab School  
Sandye Johnson, Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change  
Hazel Joseph-Roseboro, University Heights High School  
Leonard Kassan, High School for Service and Learning  
Melody Kellogg, Emma Lazarus High School for English Language Scholars  
Joan Klingsberg, Voyages Preparatory  
Kirsten Larson, Marble Hill School for International Studies  
April Leong, Liberation Diploma Plus High School  
Lisa Luft, John F. Kennedy High School  
Nancy Mann, Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom High School  
Harris Marmor, High School for Health Careers and Sciences  
Tamika Matheson, Frederick Douglass Academy VII High School  
Winston McCarthy, North Queens Community High School  
Patrick McGillicuddy, East Brooklyn Community High School  
Thomas McKenna, Brooklyn Democracy Academy K643  
Adaleza Michelena, High School for Innovation in Advertising and Media  
Joyce Mills-Kittrell, Samuel Gompers CTE High School  
Wilper Morales, West Bronx Academy for the Future  
Ramon Namnum, High School of World Cultures  
Sana Q. Nasser, Harry S. Truman High School  
Phuong Nguyen, Civic Leadership Academy  
Lori O'Mara, David A. Stein Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy  
Taeko Onishi, Lyons Community School  
Charles Osewalt, Principal Morris Academy for Collaborative Studies  
Max Jean-Paul, Brooklyn Bridge Academy  
Panorea Panagiosoulis, Knowledge and Power Preparatory Academy  
Aaron Perez, William C. Bryant High School  
Liliana Polo, West Brooklyn Community High School  
Marie A. Prendergast, HS for Youth and Community Development  
Gaylea Prichard-Silvers, International High School at Union Square  
Pamela Randazzo, Brooklyn School of Music and Theatre  
Robert Rhodes, Millennium High School  
Rolando Rivera, Discovery High School  
Reginald Richardson, Performing Arts and Technology High School  
Miriam Rivas, Bronx Health Sciences High School

Sue-Ann Rosch, Community School for Social Justice  
Brian Rosenbloom, Chelsea High School  
Mark Rush, Bushwick School for Social Justice  
Fausto Salazar, New World High School  
Danielle Salzberg, Frank McCourt High School  
Mirza Sánchez-Medina, Manhattan Bridges High School  
Janet Saraceno, Herbert H. Lehman High School  
Seth Schoenfeld, Olympus Academy  
Evan Schwartz, Bronx School of Law and Finance  
Sarah Scrogin, East Bronx Academy for the Future  
Benjamin Sherman, East-West School of International Studies  
Benjamin Shuldiner, High School for Public Service: Heroes of Tomorrow  
Tammy Smith, Eximius Academy  
Nathan Snyder, LIFE Academy for Film and Music  
Joshua Solomon, Business of Sports School  
Pamela Taranto, Brooklyn International High School  
Avis Terrell, Urban Assembly Academy of History and Citizenship for Young Men  
Carla Theodorou, Metropolitan High School  
Joshua Thomases, Business of Sports School  
Edward Tom, Bronx Center for Science and Mathematics  
Patricia Tubridy, Channel View School for Research  
Mary Anne Tucker, Bronx Coalition Community High School  
Arisleyda Ureña, Academy for Language and Technology  
Juan Villar, Gregorio Luperon High School  
Kim Wanliss, World Academy for Total Community Health H.S.  
Philip Weinberg, High School for Telecommunication Arts and Technology  
John Wenk, Lower Manhattan Arts Academy  
Donna Williams, Assistant Principal, Grover Cleveland High School  
Michele Williams, Queens HS for Information, Research & Technology  
George York, Bronx High School

Robert L. Hughes, President, New Visions for Public Schools  
Chad Vignola, Vice President, New Visions for Public Schools